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Minutes

**Board of Building Regulations and Standards
Fire Prevention Fire Protection (FPFP) Advisory Committee
50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757 – 2nd Floor Conference Room
September 30, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.**

1. Roll Call - Call to Order 9:12 pm

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| a. Robert Carasitti Chair (BC) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent | g. Chief Gary McCarraher (GM) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| b. Dave LeBlanc V-Chair (DL) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent | h. Boston Fire Commissioner | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| c. Walter Adams (WA) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent | Paul Donga for BFD (PD) | |
| Part-time: arrived 9:38 | | i. State Fire Marshal (or designee) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| d. Don Contois (DC) | <input type="checkbox"/> present ✓ absent | Jake Nunnemache for the SFM (JN) | |
| e. Harold Cutler (HL) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent | j. Kurt Ruchala (KR) | <input type="checkbox"/> present ✓ absent |
| f. Rob Anderson (RA or designee) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent | k. Louise Vera (LV) | ✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |

General note on format: votes are noted as (Motion by: XX, Second by: XX, Vote: In Favor-Opposed- Abstaining).

The meeting was call to order at 9:12 with 8 of 11 Members present a quorum was achieved.

2. Review and approval of minutes from September 23, 2015

The September 23, 2015 draft minutes were not reviewed and this was table until the next FPFP meeting.

3. The committee resume discussion on Agenda Item 3 Review and discussion on DFS comments to the Draft 9th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR.

The discussion picked up where the committee left off from the last meeting: DFS Proposal on Section R314.6.

The committee made it through this section and into the next.

4. At this point, Walter Adams arrived (9:38) so the voting membership was increased to 9.

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5. The committee progress through the remainder of the DFS proposals with the exception of 2 proposals on 916 which were taken up separately.
6. The committee next discussed 916.1 and 916. This discussion was a resumption of the committee's efforts from their June meeting.
 - a. The issue of the radio responder coverage requirement is complex and has appreciable cost considerations
 - b. Different "where required" provisions are necessary for new and existing buildings
 - i. At present, the systems are required for new construction
 - ii. From an existing building perspective, there are limited "code paths" to the new construction criteria:
 1. Additions and changes in occupancy under the Work Area Method.
 2. Arguable through Prescriptive Method per 2009 IEBC but the 2009 IFC does not require it.
 3. Under 2015 IEBC Prescriptive Method, through reference to 2015 IFC, these systems are required in existing buildings.
 4. Several attendees also noted that Alterations Level 3 (50% of the building is altered) should potentially be another trigger. Alternatively, a cost threshold concept should be considered.
 5. Captain Joe Brooks of BFD identified that BFD requires the system as part of a fire alarm replacement. However, BFD does allow for testing to be performed to determine if a system is necessary. If the testing demonstrates it is not necessary the system is not required but retesting must occur every 5 years to demonstrate communications still work. If a retest fails a system will be required.
 - iii. A discussion needs to continue on existing buildings "where required" and possibly the Chapter 34 Committee should meet jointly with FPFP for this discussion.
 - c. The discussion also reviewed the specific requirement to provide for emergency responder coverage to the "exterior" of the building.
 - i. The "line of sight" / number of windows can significantly affect radio operations.
 - ii. The installation of low E glass throughout a building that previously complied may in fact no longer comply: the low E dampens the abilities to penetrate the glass.
 - iii. The Fire Service noted that to truly be effective tool for emergency responders the signal should reach dispatch and not just the "exterior" of the building.
 - d. Cost considerations should consider both:
 - i. The primary costs of the system install and secondary costs of maintenance
 - ii. The "Value Added" of shared systems
 - e. A new standard has been created by NFPA: NFPA 1221. While much of the criteria is simply the former NFPA 72 section on Emergency Communication systems, it also represents the latest "evolution" on criteria for such systems. Review of this standard should be a priority.
7. The discussion on 916 needs to continue and will. However, in order to complete the requested review of DFS proposals, the committee returned to the specific proposals. The committee completed this work.
8. The next meeting was set for October 14 at 50 Maple Street Milford beginning at 9 am.

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9. The remainder of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.
10. Approval to adjourn the meeting

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: DL 2nd: PD Vote: 9-0-0

The meeting was closed at approximately 12:00 pm.

Exhibits

- a. DFS Proposals dated 5/5/15
- b. Staff Comments on DFS Proposals (Edited 5/8/15 and commented on by T Riley the week of 6/1/15)
- c. PowerPoint presentation by the FPFP Chair that combined each DFS proposal and Staff Comment on single slide